

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows.

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/556,722, filed on April 21, 2000. This Application is related to U.S. Patent  
5 Application Number 09/556,725, entitled **BUSINESS METHOD FOR COMPARISON SHOPPING WITH DYNAMIC PRICING OVER A NETWORK**, to the same inventors as this disclosure and filed on April 21, 2000.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 8, as follows.

10 ~~This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/556,722, filed on April 21, 2000.~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 23, as follows.

Note that in an alternative preferred embodiment, the ISP (110) can be  
15 removed and the bid agent (111) can be located in the user's computer (102). However, while the privacy given by the ISP (110) can not be guaranteed in this embodiment, the system (100) is simplified.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 22, as follows.

20 Each product node (604) in the product ontology (600) is associated with two tables, i.e., an attribute table (701) which records details of the product attributes, and an a store table (702) which records details on the stores selling the product. The attribute and store tables will be described in detail later with Figure 7. The store table (702) is used by the broker system (150) to decide which stores it will send a bid request to. The  
25 attribute table is also used by the broker system (150) to cluster products comparable with the selected product. While products complementary in function to a selected product are determined by each store according to their marketing strategy and the product availability, products which replace (or are comparable with) a selected product can be determined by using a distance measure (615) between products. Product distance,  $D_{ij}$ ,  
30 between two products,  $P_i$  and  $P_j$  is defined as follows:

$$D_{ij} = S_k |w_{ik}A_{ik} - w_{jk}A_{jk}|, \text{ where } k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$